

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 00492 111421Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /036 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1909  
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK, EI  
SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND: POSSIBLE US VISIT BY  
PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC LEADERS

THE FOLLOWING IS TRANSMITTED FOR CONGEN BELFAST  
1. THE JANUARY 3-7 VISIT TO BELFAST OF SENATOR THOMAS  
EAGLETON APPEARS TO HAVE REVIVED THE POSSIBILITY OF US  
VISIT BY TWO PROMINENT PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC POLITI-  
CIANS. THE AIM WOULD BE US INVESTMENT IN NORTHERN  
IRELAND, BUT THERE COULD BE A FAVORABLE POLITICAL  
EFFECT AS WELL.

2. LAST FALL THE CONGEN HEARD THAT TWO LEADING NI

..  
POLITICIANS WERE THINKING OF A JOINT TRIP TO THE US:  
REV. MARTIN SMYTH, PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER, GRAND MASTER  
OF THE ORANGE ORDER, AND A SENIOR LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL  
UNIONIST PARTY; AND JOHN HUME, THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY, AND WIDELY EXPECT-  
ED TO WIN A SEAT IN THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY IF PARLIAMENT  
APPROVES THE LEGISLATION AS DESIRED BY HMG. HUME TOLD  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 00492 111421Z

US IN OCTOBER THAT THEY HAD HOPED TO TRAVEL IN NOVEMBER  
BUT HAD NOT FOUND THE PRIVATE SPONSOR THEY NEEDED. THE  
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE WAS INTERESTED, AND THE SUBJECT  
WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON  
DURING SECRETARY OF STATE ROY MASON'S OCTOBER VISIT,  
BUT THE BRITISH MESSAGE APPARENTLY WAS GARBLED. THE  
CONGEN DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH EUR/NE.

3. THE IDEA WAS RESUSCITATED DURING SENATOR EAGLETON'S VISIT. BOTH SMYTH AND HUME SAID THEY WOULD STILL BE INTERESTED IN TRAVELING TOGETHER, ALTHOUGH A GOOD PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT HAD PASSED AND SMYTH WOULD BE TRAVELING TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN MARCH. THE SENATOR TOLD SECRETARY MASON THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE VISIT BY ARRANGING AN INVITATION, PERHAPS FROM THE US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND COULD ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH BUSINESSMEN AND MEDIA EXPOSURE. MASON INDICATED STRONG SUPPORT. SENATOR EAGLETON SUGGESTED THAT THE VISIT BE PREPARED CAREFULLY AND DELIBERATELY, TO ENSURE SUCCESS.

4. AS WE UNDERSTAND, SMYTH AND HUME WOULD TRY TO PRESENT A REALISTIC PICTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AIMED PRIMARILY TO ATTRACT US INVESTMENT. AS A SECONDARY EFFECT, WE SEE THE CHANCE OF POSITIVE BENEFIT BOTH IN NI AND THE US FROM SUCH A CLOSE ASSOCIATION OF LEADERS FROM NI'S TWO COMMUNITIES. THE PROSPECT OF SUCH A TRIP COULD BE SENSITIVE, AND ADVANCE PUBLICITY MIGHT KILL IT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE EXPECT THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE TO FOLLOW UP, AND SENATOR EAGLETON TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO OFFER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LONDON 00492 111421Z

APPROPRIATE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE.  
BREWSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROTESTANTS, CATHOLICS, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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